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Press Item for the DCI

Date: 16 Dec
Item: No. 7
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URGENT

Douglas Lead
By JOHN BECKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON AP - Justice William O. Douglas said today he intends to stay on the Supreme Court and he called on young people "to keep the faith", by fighting, through the law, for civil rights.

At an unusual news conference, the white-haired justice said he has always been proud to be a member of the Supreme Court. He said he had freely made all his files available to a special House committee investigating his behavior and now that it has "performed its constitutional duties . . . I will try to continue to perform mine as a member of the Court . . ."

The committee concluded there are no grounds for impeaching Douglas. Some House conservatives, who have been firing at the 72-year-old justice for months, are expected to resume their attack next year when the new Congress convenes.

"I have always been proud to be a member of the Court, an institution which I think all will agree is distinguished at least in one respect—it always has been and always will be stoutly independent," Douglas said.

The Justice read from a statement while sitting under a portrait of John Marshall, an early chief justice, in the court's east conference room.

About 50 reporters, photographers and cameramen sat before him. They have failed until now in gaining any response to their inquiries about the congressional criticism and the report by the House committee.

The House investigators who looked into Douglas' conduct have disclosed a possible connection between Douglas and the Central Intelligence Agency.

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Comment. Goodwin and Maury have copies.

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.